

What is claimed is:

1. A method for producing a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, which comprises saponifying an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer in an alcohol-based solvent in the presence of an alkali catalyst,
5 wherein from 100 ppm to 15,000 ppm of water (based on the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer) is added to the alcohol-based solvent.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein a first solution
10 comprising an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer and an alcohol-based solvent and a second solution comprising an alkali catalyst and an alcohol-based solvent are introduced into a saponification reaction column through an upper portion thereof, and a vapor of an alcohol-based solvent is
15 introduced into the saponification reaction column through a lower portion thereof.
3. The method according to claim 2, wherein water is fed into the saponification reaction column with the second solution.
- 20 4. The method according to claim 1, whereby the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer is saponified to give a saponification degree of at least 90 mol %.
5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the ethylene-vinyl
25 acetate copolymer is saponified until its saponification degree is at least 98 mol %.
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the alcohol-based solvent contains from 100 ppm to 3000 ppm water (based on the ethylene-
30 vinyl acetate copolymer).
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein from 1000 ppm to 15,000 ppm of water (based on the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer) are added whereby to inhibit saponification of the ethylene-vinyl acetate
35 copolymer by consumption of the alkali catalyst and thus produce a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer having a saponification degree of from 90 mol % to 98 mol %.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the ethylene content in the ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer is from 20 mol % to 70 mol %.

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